

Public Health Information: Collection and Dissemination

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Communicable Disease Control

Emergency Preparedness

Health Alert Network



A Local Public Health Perspective: Using SARS as an Example

- First reports in early March
- What do we need to know?
 - Cause
 - Transmission
 - Infection Control
 - Evaluation (symptoms & case definition)

A Local Public Health Perspective: Using SARS as an Example

- What is the source of our information?
 - Timely
 - Credible
 - Consistent
 - Complete

A Local Public Health Perspective: Using SARS as an Example

- Who needs this information?
 - Hospitals
 - Clinicians
 - EMS/Pre-hospital
 - First Responders

A Local Public Health Perspective: Using SARS as an Example

- How is the information distributed?
 - Health Alert Network (HAN)
 - Telephone
 - Local Publications (*Epi-Connections*)
 - Coordinated with other public health orgs
 - How often is information distributed?

A Local Public Health Perspective: Using SARS as an Example

- What are some of the local limitations?
 - Relationship with clinical community
 - Lack of resources (time and/or staff)
 - Lack of technology



Conclusions

- Collection and dissemination needs are driven at the local level
 - Local audience
 - Local resources